

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY

China

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT

Chinese Communist Regime in
Southwestern Sinkiang Province

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

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Restrictions

1. In the fall of 1952 no one was permitted to travel from southwestern Sinkiang to either Ining (N 43-55, E 81-14) or Chuguhak (N 46-45, E 82-57) where the authorities were engaged in liquidating large numbers of people accused of having participated in the 1944 revolt against Chinese rule.¹
2. It was necessary to obtain police permission before inviting guests to one's home.
3. Polygamy had been declared unlawful.

Construction

4. The fortification walls surrounding the two cities of Kashgar (Sufu, N 39-29, E 75-58, and Sulo, N 39-25, E 76-08) were being torn down by forced labor. All women in both cities were compelled to work at removing the debris resulting from the destruction. The men of Kashgar were being forced to work on the construction of roads and buildings.

Redistribution of Land

5. In the latter part of 1952 the government was vigorously pursuing its program for the redistribution of land. Every man agreeing to work in the fields was given 10 mows² of land which had been confiscated from wealthy landowners. Poor farmers were also supplied with the implements needed for cultivation. Tractors were being used on many farms.
6. Cattle breeders were permitted to own no more than 100 head of cattle.³

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All cattle above this number were taken over by the government and turned over to their various agencies.

Control of Business

7. By the end of 1952 all profitable business, including the silk industry in Khotan (N 37-07, E 79-55), was under government control. Private business was discouraged, and almost all shops had been turned into government-owned cooperative stores. The salaries paid to shopkeepers were barely enough to cover their living expenses.
8. Any person found with gold or silver in his possession was suspected of engaging in black-market traffic in these metals, a crime, and was subjected to official interrogation concerning the manner in which he obtained it.

Soviets

9. In late 1952 Soviets, posing as engineers, were in almost every town in southwestern Sinkiang.

Propaganda

10. In every administrative unit youth organizations had been established to carry on propaganda work aimed at reactionary elements in the population.
11. Pictures of MAO and Stalin were displayed in almost every home.
12. The officials in the government of Sinkiang Province were telling the people that the Chinese in the administrative structure were there simply to teach the natives of Sinkiang the art of governing, and that soon the full governmental administrative responsibility would be turned over to the people of Sinkiang.

Purges, Arrests and Executions

13. In the fall of 1952 all former Kuomintang employees were being called upon to confess any corrupt practices in which they had engaged during their careers in the government. Merchants were being constrained to reveal any negligence on their parts in the payment of government taxes during the past twenty years, and to pay the present government any amounts still due. Severe punishments were inflicted on persons trying to conceal their guilt.
14. Persons classified by the government as exploiters⁴ were required to undergo public trial. Should an exploiter be found guilty, the public determined which of the following punishments should be inflicted on him: death and confiscation of property, torture and confiscation of property, or imprisonment with re-education. Relatives of the accused who manifest their emotions during the trials were subjected to the same penalties as the accused.
15. All pilgrims who returned to Sinkiang from Mecca via India and Pakistan were arrested by the Sinkiang authorities when they re-entered the province. Those not executed were released from prison late last year.⁵
16. In Karghalik (N 41-15, E 77-26) hsien 300 persons, including village clan leaders, large landowners and other prominent people. During 1952 the following persons were publicly executed in Karghalik: Shofan Tohti Beg, Zunlong Tohti Beg, Yasin Sawjang, Aykipek Khan, Musa Khan, Tohtisun Haji, Azam Khan, Nor Yegit, Ruzi Beg Haji, Makoshin Mirab and Abdul Khaliq.

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17. Tursun Ali, a former magistrate of Kashgar; Abdul Qadir, director of the Sinkiang Daily News; and Hamid Sidiq, a prominent Kashgar citizen, were publicly executed in Kashgar. Abdul Karim Khan Makhdum⁶, former District Governor of Kashgar, was under house arrest in late 1952 and was being held incommunicado.

Reaction Against the Present Regime

18. In late 1952 the people of southwestern Sinkiang were deeply resentful of the Chinese Communist regime and looked forward to the day of their "re-liberation."

- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. The 1944 revolution in northwestern Sinkiang, which made that part of the province virtually autonomous, was, according to reports from other American agencies, backed by the USSR.
- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. A mow is little less than one acre.
25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. According to the China Handbook for 1952-1953 a shih mow equals 0.1647 acres. [REDACTED] another source reported that in early 1952 it was expected that individual land holdings in Sinkiang would be fixed at approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres after the Communist agrarian program had been put into effect. 25X1A
- 25X1A 3. [REDACTED] Comment. This information appears to be a more reasonable version of the report, from a similar source, [REDACTED] to the effect that the government had claimed all livestock. 25X1A
- 25X1A 4. [REDACTED] Comment. Exploiters are defined as those who exploited the peasants in the past.
- 25X1A 5. [REDACTED] Comment. It is not clear whether 1951 or 1952 is intended.
- 25X1A 6. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported that Abdul Karim Makhdum was under house arrest in the spring of 1952.

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